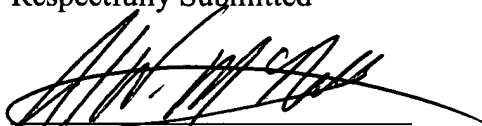


REMARKS

Before examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please enter the present Preliminary Amendment. By the present amendment, claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice. The remaining claims 5-18 are those claims withdrawn from the parent application, Serial No. 09/838,355, in view of a restriction requirement. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted



By: Thomas W. McNally
Reg. No. 48,609
Attorney for Applicant

F.CHAU & ASSOCIATES, LLP
1900 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 501
East Meadow, New York 11554
Telephone: (516) 357-0091
Facsimile: (516) 357-0092